

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-17 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants are canceling claims 1-3, 5-9 and 12-17 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 10 and 11 have been amended. No new claims have been added. As a result claims 10 and 11 are pending for examination with claims 10 and 11 being independent claims. No new matter has been added. Applicants request entry of this amendment because it accepts the allowable subject matter identified in the instant Office Action. Accordingly, this amendment places the application in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 10 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten each of claims 10 and 11 in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 5, 6, 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0002350 to Larrain et al. (hereinafter Larrain). In addition, the Office Action rejects claims 7, 8, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Larrain in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,727,594 to Choksi. Also, the Office Action rejects claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,290,681 to Brown in view of Larrain. Each of the preceding rejections is now moot in view of the claim amendments. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of each of these rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration is respectfully requested. This application should now be in condition for allowance; a notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

A petition and a fee for a one month extension of time are included herewith. If this response is not considered timely filed in view of the petition and fee and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, which is not covered by an accompanying payment, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50/2762, Ref. No. J2000-7001US.

Respectfully submitted,
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